

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. Heading

Date: February 15, 1991
Subject: Nelson Galvanizing Inc., Queens, NY

From: Paul Kahn, OSC, Region II, Response and Prevention
Branch
To: Kathy Callahan, Director, Emergency and Remedial
Response Division

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POLREP: One (1) and Final

II. Background

SITE NO.: 6Z
Delivery Order: n/a
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: n/a
Start Date: February 12, 1991

III. Response Information

A. Situation

Nelson Galvanizing Inc. (NGI) is located at 11-02 Broadway, Queens, NY. The site is an active production facility involved in the custom hot dip galvanizing business.

NGI is a two story building located in a mixed commercial, residential, and light industrial area. Over 15,000 persons live and work within 1/2 mile of the facility. Public housing for perhaps 5,000 persons is within 1/2 mile of the facility. The site is within 1/2 mile of Roosevelt Island, the home of more than 12,000. The site is located within 3 blocks of the East River, which although not a source of drinking water, is a major ship, barge, and recreational waterway.



The building is sub-divided; a commercial car leasing business also occupies the premises. Industrial businesses have been on this site since approximately 1849.

2. Description of Threat

Approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of corrosive acids and caustics are stored on-site in open top drums and large open tanks. In addition, tons of contaminated soil and debris are stored on the premises. Standing puddles of acidic liquids are believed to be leaking into the environment.

In the event of a fire, it is anticipated that fire fighters would not be able to avoid contamination from acidic run-off and toxic fumes. All run-off produced by fire fighting efforts would go directly into the street and thence to the East River. Drums of waste chemicals and piles of debris are everywhere: stacked in front of exit doors, and around a boiler room; a situation that would severely hamper fire fighting efforts.

A potential for direct exposure through acts of vandalism or from trespassers exists. Interior lighting conditions are extremely poor. There are numerous holes in the roof and walls that allow rainwater to enter the premises, washing the spilled acids and caustic onto the dirt floor.

B. Actions Taken

Westinghouse-Haztech (ERCS) was mobilized to the site on 2/12/91 to monitor operations at NGI during daytime hours to ensure that NGI personnel do not undertake any removal activities until appropriate documents, such as H & S Plan and Consent Order are finalized and a Workplan is approved.

On 2/13/91 EPA and PRP met to discuss proposed federal Removal Action. PRP informed EPA that it intended to perform the Removal Action with EPA oversight. On 2/15/91 PRP, through its attorney, verbally (officially) informed EPA that it would undertake the removal action, and would sign a Consent Order with the Agency. PRP also gave assurances that no additional removal work would be performed until the consent order was signed and preliminary documents approved. Based on this development, OSC directed ERCS to demobe from the site.

C. Next Steps

PRP and EPA will negotiate the terms of a consent order that will specify the exact nature of the removal action, and respective rights/obligations of all participants

EPA will monitor PRP removal with TAT and OSC.

IV. Cost Information: n/a

FURTHER POLREPS
FINAL POLREP X TO FOLLOW ____

SUBMITTED BY:


Paul L. Kahn, OSC

DATE: 2/15/91